

Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-11 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

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INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, IN

SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER GANDHI ON SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION AND
OTHER TOPICS

1. SPEAKING AT THE OPENING SESSION OF THE PUGWASH CONFERENCE BEING HELD IN MADRAS JANUARY 14, PRIME MINISTER GANDHI EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION OCCASIONALLY "COULD RESULT IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES BEING TREATED AS GUINEA PIGS FOR THE TESTING OF NEW DEVICES, TECHNIQUES AND CHEMICALS." SHE ALSO WARNED OF THE DANGER THAT "APPARENTLY DISINTERESTED SCIENTIFIC PROJECTS UNDERTAKEN ON THE BASIS OF INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION ARE ACTUALLY DIRECTED AT OTHER OBJECTIVES, WHICH MAY BE PREJUDICIAL TO THE SECURITY AND WELL-BEING OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES CONCERNED."

2. MRS. GANDHI WELCOMED THE HELSINKI DECLARATION BUT CAUTIONED THAT "MANY POWERS CONTINUE ATTEMPTS TO EXTEND THEIR INFLUENCE IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND TO PREVENT OTHERS FROM DOING LIKE-
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WISE."

3. ON THE QUESTION OF NUCLEAR TESTING, MRS. GANDHI OBSERVED THAT SOME COUNTRIES "RESENT THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WORKING ON CERTAIN TECHNOLOGIES ON THE GROUND OF MISUSE. WE ARE BEING PRESSURED TO DISCONTINUE THE EXPERIMENTS ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF NUCLEAR ENERGY, BUT CAN WE ACCEPT THIS POSITION?" SHE SAID THAT INDIA WAS "NOT LESS CAPABLE OF RESPONSIBILITY THAN THOSE OTHERS" WHO HAVE USED SUCH TECHNOLOGIES TO ATTAIN AND AUGMENT THEIR POWER AND DOMINANCE."

4. REFERRING TO INDIA'S INTERNAL PROBLEMS, MRS. GANDHI SAID THAT "WHETHER THREATS ARE EXTERNAL OR INTERNAL (THERE IS OFTEN A RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO), WE ARE BOUND TO TAKE ADEQUATE PRECAUTIONS." "IT WOULD BE UNREALISTIC TO EXPECT A COUNTRY OF INDIA'S SIZE TO PLAY A SUBSERVIENT ROLE AND ILL-ADVISED TO TRY TO BRING ABOUT MORE PLIABLE LEADERSHIP."
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Message Attributes

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